

## **REMARKS**

### **Status of the Claims**

Claims 2-8, 10-17 and 19-21 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 9 and 18 are cancelled. Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 2-8, 10-17, 19 and 20 are allowed. The Examiner should note that the Office Action mailed August 12, 2005 did not consider claim 21. However, Applicants assume that claim 21 is in condition for allowance since it is dependent upon an allowable claim.

### **Rejection of Claims 9 and 18 Under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph**

Claims 9 and 18 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Although Applicants do not agree with the Examiner, this rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 9 and 18.

### **Rejections of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)**

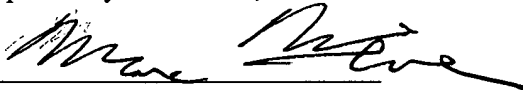
Claim 1 is rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hater in view of Francis or VanErdewyk for the reasons set forth in paragraph 3 of the Office Action. Claim 1 is also rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over VanErdewyk in view of Schlaemus et al. for the reasons set forth in paragraph 4 of the Office Action. These rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of claim 1.

Applicants are canceling claims 1, 9 and 18 in order to expedite allowance of the present application. This RCE is filed so that the Examiner may consider various publications that have recently come to the attention of the undersigned. The Examiner is requested to consider, initial and date the attached PTO-1449 and issue a Notice of Allowance. Applicants preserve the right to file a divisional application to pursue subject matter cancelled by this amendment.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: **SEP 26 2005**

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Marc S. Weiner

Registration No.: 32,181

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Rd

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant